

Probably variable, with light showers.

LOCAL BREVITIES.

Mr. J. W. Whitell, of Lexington, Ky., paid us a flying visit this morning. The Cincinnati Camp Meeting will close its exercises with a union service, beginning at 10 o'clock to-morrow morning.

"THE DEAD ALIVE" is the subject for this evening before the Strangers' Meeting, at the Y. M. C. A. rooms. A large attendance is expected.

The Pioneer Association met this afternoon at 241 West Fourth street, to pay the last funeral rites to one of their members, Mrs. Mary Diehl, whose death we chronicled yesterday.

The resolution of the Council requesting the Board of Improvements to improve Lower River road, was referred to the Finance Committee. The improvement will cost about \$50,000.

The repair of streets and bills for material, as presented to the Board of Improvements yesterday afternoon, amount to \$10,381.81. For the cleaning of the streets, \$1,973.48 were expended during the week.

Proposals for the retaining wall on Eggleston avenue, near Third street; for the old east and wrought iron of the city, and for the river bowlers, were opened in the Board of Improvements yesterday, and laid over till next week.

The resolution to improve Greenwood street under the new law, was recommended to Council by the Board of Improvements yesterday afternoon. Total expense, \$16,275. Expense to the city, \$2,010.10.

Information received in this city from the Hippodrome states that De Haven has recovered, is again attending to business, and is about as much of a curiosity as they could have. The show has reached Canada and is meeting with much better luck.

Mr. Wm. E. Knepper, our young sculptor, and his great work, "Toleration," have received a handsome compliment from the Rome correspondent of the Philadelphia Bulletin, who speaks in the highest terms of the talents of the sculptor and the beauty of the design.

OFFICER BURGER, of Bremen-street station-house, yesterday afternoon in a vacant lot on Plum street, below Liberty, found a trunk marked Henry Boring. The lock seems to have been meddled with, but was not broken open.

The trunk contained a good suit of clothes, an old one, which seemed to show that the clothes belong to a baker, a razor and other articles. The trunk was taken to Bremen-street station-house, where the property can be identified.

CHARLES S. BIANBRIER, who has been several times sent to the Longview Asylum, and not long since liberated as cured, last night about seven o'clock, without any provocation, hurled a chair at Michael Rantz, who was coming out of a cellar below the saloon at the corner of Race and Second streets. Failing in his attempt to injure Rantz seriously, Bribrier rushed up stairs and procured a pistol, which he discharged at the former, but missed his mark. Ellison and Gunney, two of the One's engine boys, overpowered Bribrier and took him to the Hammond-street station. Bribrier will probably be sent to Longview Asylum.

The Worthington law has created considerable inconvenience to the members of the Board of Health, as under its strictures the Board, with the funds now under its control, would be enabled to continue in operation for only two months. This has led to different plans and propositions towards retrenchment. One that is likely to be made this afternoon by the Board is to reduce the number of ward physicians about one-half; that is, to reduce the city, and make it the duty of one physician to attend to all wards at a salary of \$500 instead of \$600 paid to two physicians before. This would save \$1,500 per annum. Another reduction, that will probably be made, is to dispense with all the Assistant Marsh-masters, and have their duties performed by regular police.

Details of Umbrellas.

Umbrellas, such a necessary convenience in our day, were, even in the beginning of the present century, but little used in England, or indeed, in any of Europe, unless by invalids or very fine ladies. And they did not carry an umbrella in the street as we do; but one was kept hanging in the hall of stylish mansions, and held by a servant over visitors as they passed to and from their carriages. It was deemed very unbecomingly to be seen in the street wetting; and so it was no wonder that an old soldier like Lord Cornwallis should have had his air aroused by the use of an umbrella. He had been dining with a friend, and when about to enter his carriage to return home, stopped a moment to converse with his host. He it was raining in torrents, and an attendant attempted to hold the house umbrella over his Lordship's head; but the old soldier exclaimed wrathfully:

"Take that thing away! Do you suppose I am a sugar doll? or do you suppose for a woman who is as fine as I am, I have not been all these years fighting my country's battles, to be frightened now at cold water. A shower of rain is no worse than powder and ball, and I never shrank them."

Then, baring his head to the pelting rain, the nobleman walked deliberately to his carriage.

The gallant old Duke of Wellington, the hero of Waterloo, and so many other battles, had the same opinion of umbrellas. During the Spanish war, in an action near Bayonne, in 1812, the Grenadiers, under Colonel Tyngling, occupied an unfinished redoubt near the high head. Lord Wellington mounted on his veteran charger, rose past the redoubt, peering with critical eye the disposition of the troops, and evidently as unsatisfied of the heavy rain that was pelting him over the head and shoulders as he was of powder and ball when facing an enemy whom he always meant, and rarely failed to subdue. You may imagine, then, the indignation of the sturdy chieftain at seeing the officers of a certain regiment protecting themselves, even under fire from the torrents of rain, by huddling together under umbrellas. "The more the more the familiarity of the 'iron Duke' could endure, and he instantly, after reaching his quarters, dispatched Lord Hill with the message: "Lord Wellington does not approve of the use of umbrellas by soldiers, and especially under fire, nor can he permit gentlemen's sons to make themselves ridiculous in the eyes of the army." Fannie Roper Fudge, St. Nicholas for August.

A mile is as good as a mile—as good as two or three miles, in fact, if she is pretty, and it's a moon-light night.

A DISASTROUS FIRE.

Chief Megrue and Ten Firemen Buried in the Ruins.

ONE OF THEM DEAD AND OTHERS DYING.

LOSS NEARLY \$100,000.

A destructive fire followed by a terrible disaster occurred between the hours of two and three o'clock this morning, in the rear of 146, 148 and 150 West Fourth street. The fire was in a building, between Fourth and Fifth streets, adjoining the numbers mentioned, and owned by Mr. Joseph T. Trounstone, of 83 and 85 West Third street. The disaster which followed was caused by the falling of the walls of the building, burying Chief Megrue and ten firemen under the ruins, killing one of the number outright and fatally injuring others.

The origin of the fire is a mystery, and will probably always remain so. It was first discovered by a private watchman employed at No. 150 West Fourth street, and appeared to have originated in the fourth story, which is occupied by Messrs. Bloch & Co., as a printing office, and contained large quantities of printers' ink and other inflammable matter. When first noticed by him the flames were bursting from the windows of the fourth story, and had already gained very great headway. He immediately turned in an alarm from box 32 at the corner of Fourth and Race streets, and the firemen promptly responded. Owing to the fact, however, that the building was so completely surrounded by others and the fire in the upper stories, it was difficult to obtain access to it with the hose. The lines were, however, run through the surrounding buildings, and the gallant firemen were soon throwing several streams on the flames.

By this time, however, the flames had gained great headway and had communicated to the upper stories, which were occupied by Messrs. W. W. Donaldson & Co., lithographers, and contained also large quantities of ink and other inflammable material. The added fuel to the flames and large quantities of water were required to check the fire.

The flames shot up to a great height, scorching the firemen, who, however, stood firm to their posts and fought them at every point. A building adjoining on the west is occupied as a tenement house, and the fire communicated to it among the inmates, who were making preparations to immediately remove their furniture, when they were assured by the officers and firemen that they were out of danger, and they reluctantly decided to remain.

The fire was at last put under control by the heroic exertions of the firemen, and gradually succumbed to the influence of the streams of water forced in upon it from the number of lines of hose surrounding the building. The fire had also communicated to the lower stories, in which were stored large quantities of printing paper, picture frames and other valuables, owned by Messrs. Bloch & Co., and several printing presses used for book and job printing, and also for printing The Star. These were all greatly damaged both by the flames and by the large quantities of water which, from the nature of the material in the building, it was necessary to use.

FALLING WALLS. At 3 o'clock the fire was under control, and here and there only some inflammable material was left burning. The firemen, who had been working heroically for the past hour, were just preparing to extinguish when a greater calamity occurred. The north wall of the building, some seventy-five feet in length, fell with a terrible crash, taking along with it the joists and interior structure of the whole building, and burying the firemen stationed on the different floors in its ruins.

Excitement now ran high, and the large crowd that had gathered on all sides of the burning building, began to murmur. The firemen, who were in alarm, but soon returned to the rescue. Louis Wisby, of the Threes, immediately sent in a second and third alarm, which summoned the whole department to the scene of the calamity. The greater portion of the wall had fallen into an alley, which runs from Race street to the rear portion of the building, and here the work of clearing away the debris was immediately commenced.

The first man taken out was Henry Hambrook, a substitute of the Fives, and son of Mr. J. H. Hambrook, janitor of the Corner's office. He was partly buried beneath a portion of bricks and joists. His injuries were found to be a broken arm and several bruises about the chest. Coroner Mailey, who was present, administered prompt medical aid, after which the injured man was taken to his home on Court street, near Vine.

He is reported resting easy this morning, but complains of severe pains in the bowels. Joseph Chuck, of the Fours, and James McCormick, of the same company, were next found lying close together beneath a portion of the joists. The former was slightly injured about the head and face, but the latter suffered a severe scalp wound and other internal injuries.

He was taken to the Marine Hospital, and this morning is reported as lying very low, with only faint hopes of recovery.

John Pohlman, the Captain of the Fives, was also found lying close to the above persons and taken out alive, with only slight injuries about the head and some internal injuries. While the firemen were working manfully to rescue their unfortunate brethren and clearing away the debris to save their valiant Chief, Mr. E. G. Megrue, who also had been reported missing, Lee Slocom, of Company No. 1, was taken out alive, but badly bruised about the head and chest. He was found with a broken leg. He was conveyed to the Threes' engine-house, where he is reported as resting comfortably this morning. His parents, who reside in Columbus, have been notified of his misfortune.

Slocom was, it will be remembered, seriously injured at a fire only a short time since, and had but just recovered and commenced work again. About this time it was found that Chief Megrue was missing, and the efforts of the firemen were redoubled to find him. His voice was soon heard under the ruins near the alley. The efforts of the firemen were now mainly to rescue the debris had been cleared away and a portion of the heavy timbers saved in twain. Mr. Megrue was taken out alive, after having been buried a whole hour and a quarter under the ruins.

His head was lying to the southeast and his feet to the northwest, and his shoulders were entirely covered with debris. He was badly out in the face and bruised about the head and chest and otherwise severely injured. One of his legs was also broken, and he was unable to raise himself. Drs. Wood and Clendenning, who were immediately summoned, started him to be conveyed to the Central station, where he received all possible attention, after which he was taken to his home at No. 27 George

street, where, this morning, he is reported as resting easy, and hopes of his ultimate recovery are entertained.

He is still, however, in a critical condition, and every means are being taken that will induce an early recovery. The street and alley in the neighborhood are blocked so that the passing wagons may not disturb his rest. It is stated that he will not be able to be about for a month at least.

The last man who was taken from the ruins and who suffered instant death was Richard Holcomb, a substitute of the Tens, and a brother-in-law of Dr. Mailey. He was found lying next to the wall which had fallen and was entirely covered up with bricks and heavy timbers.

Life was entirely extinct when he was found. The injuries he sustained were a large wound in the back of his head and a severe gash across his left cheek. A long contusion was also observed diagonally crossing his chest, evidently made by the edge of some heavy joist laying upon it, and on account of which it was stated fatal internal injuries had been sustained.

The body of the deceased was taken to the engine-house, where undertakers this morning proceeded to place it in ice. The funeral will take place to-day or to-morrow, and will be attended by the Fire Department in a body. The inquest was postponed until next Friday morning.

Jacob Lanniger, who was reported missing this morning, was subsequently found, not to have been present. Geo. Postell, of the Fives, was also considerably burnt by the fall of the building.

He was struck on the head with a pipe and was seriously out in the face. He resides on Court and Vine streets. Edward Spencer, of the Hook and Ladder Company No. 1, was also slightly hurt. Dan Cronin, of the Fives, suffered a broken arm and burned limbs in general. He is a man about 40 years of age, and resides on Clay street.

An explosion of collected gas was at first supposed to have caused the falling of the wall. It is now accounted for, however, as being the heavy weight of water which was resting in the top story of the building.

The structure is seventy-five feet in length and fifty feet in breadth, and the joists of each floor were resting on a girder, supported by heavy iron columns. These first gave way, and in so doing bulged out the walls, causing the north one to fall.

The calamity has been a very serious one, and will awaken a feeling of sympathy in the hearts of the whole community. The dead fireman, Richard Holcomb, or "Happy Dick," as he was familiarly known, was a general favorite.

He was not at present a member of the department, but was always with it, and during in embracing every opportunity for usefulness in this line. He was universally beloved by his companions, and all who knew him, and his death will occasion a deep sorrow to all.

THE LOSSES. The losses are very severe, but have not been accurately estimated. Bloch's insurance amounts to about \$30,000, and his loss will exceed that amount by considerable.

Mr. Donaldson estimates his loss at \$37,000; insured for \$24,000. Mr. Trounstone, who owned the building, puts his loss at \$10,000; fully insured. Mr. J. C. Boyd, of 150 Fourth street, puts his loss at \$1,500; insured \$1,200. The property is well covered by insurance, but the exact amount cannot yet be told. A full statement will appear in the later editions of The Star of to-day. The insurance will, it is estimated, reach over \$50,000, while the loss is put at about \$85,000.

Yesterday morning a West End husband escorted his wife to one of the depots that she might start on a visit to the country, to be gone six weeks, and as she was about ready to enter the car he said:

"Dear me! but won't I be lonesome, though?"

"I rather think you will," she responded, in a dry, cutting tone, "for I've arranged with six women, four policemen, and two detectives to keep an eye on you."

He smiled, but it was a sad smile.

A man went into a furniture room at Mankato the other day and sat down on a wood-bottomed chair. He immediately arose and danced and howled like the wildest kind of a dervish. The proprietor anxiously inquired if he had an attack of any kind. "A tick!" yelled the man, "I should say so; and the confounded thing stood on its head, too!"

Out of 206,000 of the last levy of conscripts in France, 25,000 have been declared exempted from both active and passive duties in the military line. It looks bad when so many men are not even fit to be food for gunpowder, through the fact should be considered as a good sign in behalf of peace.

In 1820 the average individual consumption of wine in France was sixty-two quarts; in 1853, eighty-four quarts, and in 1869, one hundred quarts. In Paris the average has more than doubled; each Parisian drinks on an average 217 quarts of wine annually.

Hon. Erasmus W. member of Congress from the Second Missouri District, began his political career as a "bus driver, and could, according to an advertising newspaper reporter, "turn a six-horse 'bus in the narrowest streets of St. Louis without spilling a passenger."

Mr. Joseph W. Morrell, of Glenoe, Maryland, exhibits some snakes of asparagus labeled as of 24 hours' growth, which are very thick and from 15 to 18 inches long. He states that forty hours' growth attains the size of 36 inches, which is nearly an inch an hour.

How soon some women change their minds respecting their husbands. Mrs. Spinn was forever telling her husband that he wasn't worth the salt in his bread; but when he got killed in a railway collision she sued the company for five thousand dollars.

The papers are publishing a paragraph concerning the invention of a Chicago man who was captured by a band of marauding Indians. They were about to scalp him, but he began his usual oration on the greatness of Chicago, and the braves fled in dismay.

Mark Twain, apostle of a new portable money note, writes that the day is coming "when we shall sit under our nets in church and summer peacefully, while the discomfited flies club together and take it out of the minister."

An Iowa bride made every girl of her acquaintance attend her wedding by keeping the name of the groom a secret until the last moment.

PURE ARTICLES. All the articles manufactured by Steele & Price, Chicago and St. Louis, are stamped with the name of the firm, and are of the highest quality. They are of the very best quality. They are of the very best quality. They are of the very best quality.

DIED.

DIED.—On the 18th of July, 1876, at the residence of her daughter, 241 Fourth street, Mrs. Mary Diehl, wife of David Diehl, sr., aged 80 years.

Funeral at 3 o'clock Tuesday afternoon, at the residence of her daughter, 241 West Fourth street, cor. Central avenue. Friends of the family are invited to attend.

NOTICES.

Mr. Alfred White WOULD present his compliments to Ladies and Gentlemen, and be happy to have them examine the Granite Statues of "Hope" and the "Angel Gabriel," now being sculptured at his rooms.

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